Senators Kill Nomination Of State Aide

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By Spencer Rich
Washington Post Staff Writer

In a direct challenge to the White House, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted 9 to 7 yesterday to kill the nomination of G. McMurtrie Godley as assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs.

Godley was ambassador to Laos during much of the period of active U.S. fighting in Vietnam and bombing of Laos. Committee Chairman J.W. Fulbright (D-Ark.), who offered the motion to lay aside the nomination indefinitely, said Godley was "so intimately associated with Vietnam policy and such an enthusiastic activist" of U.S. intervention that he should not serve as chief policy man for the entire East Asian area now that a new peaceful policy has come.

But Fulbright said he believed Godley to be an able man, and so the motion to kill the nomination also included language notifying secretary of State William P. Rogers that the committee wouldn't object if Godley were named to some post which doesn't involve Southeast Asian policy.

Fulbright notified Rogers of the vote by telephone immediately after the closed committee meeting broke up.

The defeat of Godley reflected a strong feeling on the committee—voiced by many senators over the past few weeks and expressed to Rogers about two weeks ago when the committee asked that Godley's name be withdrawn—that men who had developed reputations as enthusiastic "superhawks" on Vietnam over recent years shouldn't continue to control Southeast Asia policy.

Fulbright also raised the same objections to the nomination of William H. Sullivan, former Laotian ambassador, as ambassador to the Philippines, but Sullivan's nomination was approved by the committee by a 12-to-3 vote. Fulbright said a developing insurgency in the Philippines right

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now appears very similar to what Vietnam looked like some years ago, and he feared that Sullivan, a "man accustomed to intervention with military means," would feel "too much temptation to involve us in it."

On a controversial though far less important nomination, the committee by voice vote approved the promotion of James A. May from Class 3 to Class 2 Foreign Service officer. May's promotion had been held up for two years after Rep. Sam Stratton (D-N.Y.) and others had raised objections because May was U.S. province officer in the Mylai area at the time of the massacre, and critics wanted time to determine if he were implicated in any way.

Fulbright and long-time staff aides said they couldn't recollect any occasion in the past 15 to 20 years when the committee had rejected outright a nomination like Godley's, although once or twice nominations had been withdrawn when defeat seemed imminent.

Trouble for Godley first loomed several months ago, when Fulbright, Sen. Clifford P. Case (R-N.J.) and others made known their intention in future to review carefully the views of men appointed to key foreign policy jobs. Godley, Sullivan and Graham Martin (named as ambassador to Vietnam) were the three major nominees held up. Martin was subsequently approved, in part upon the personal pleas of Henry A. Kissinger.

In yesterday's vote, Fulbright, Case, Frank Church (D-Idaho), Stuart Symington (D-Mo.), Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.), Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine), George McGovern (D-S.D.), Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) and Charles H. Percy (R-Ill.) opposed Godley.

John Sparkman (D-Ala), Gale W. McGee (D-Wyo.), Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.), George D. Aiken (R-Vt.), Hugh Scott (R-Pa.), James B. Pearson (R-Kan.) and Robert P. Griffin (R-Mich.) voted for Godley. Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) was absent.

Fulbright, Symington and McGovern were the three who voted against Sullivan.

Approved by voice vote were ambassadorial nominations of William D. Brewer (Sudan), William I. Cargo (Nepal) and Philip K. Crowe (Denmark).